

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM**  
**FY-2002 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK for:**  
Colorado River Decision Support System (CRDSS)

**Project # : 71**

**Lead Agency:** Colorado Water Conservation Board  
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**Category**

☒ Ongoing project  
☐ Ongoing-revised project  
☐ Requested new start

**Expected Funding Source**

☐ Annual funds  
☐ Capital funds  
☒ Other (cash)

**I. Title of Proposal:** Colorado River Decision Support System (CRDSS)

**II. Relationship to Recovery Program:**

Assess legal and physical availability of water and compact considerations for protection of instream flow water rights for the Little Snake River, the Yampa River above and below the Little Snake River, the White River, the Colorado River (mainstem), and the Gunnison River. Provide hydrology support to develop and evaluate flow augmentation alternatives for the Yampa and Little Snake Rivers.

RIPRAP Activity Numbers:

Yampa and Little Snake Rivers: I.A.1.d., I.B.3., I.C.3., I.D.2.

White River: I.C.

Colorado mainstem: I.A.4., I.B.3

Gunnison River: I.B.

**III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:**

The CRDSS is intended to support better decision making with respect to the utilization of Colorado River water resources. The CRDSS provides computer databases and tools to make informed and timely decisions regarding the use and operation of Colorado's water resources in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The CRDSS operates in accordance with existing compacts and state laws governing the administration of water and water rights. The CRDSS allows planning for the optimal use and development of Colorado's water resources to occur.

In relation to the Recovery Program, CRDSS is being used to evaluate the physical and legal water availability at different locations along a stream and to determine the amount of water available for instream flow appropriations. It can also provide information to help determine the impacts of endangered fish flows on Colorado's ability to develop its full compact apportionment and to evaluate the impact of future water use on streamflow in designated critical habitat.

#### **IV. Study Goals, Objectives, End Product:**

The study goals and objectives of CRDS<sup>1</sup> are as follows:

- A) To support interstate compact analysis, including determination of water availability for further development and the optimization of Colorado's Compact apportionment.
- B) To support water resources management within Colorado, including the use of basin-wide models, the evaluation of existing and future instream flow appropriations, and provision of water use data as necessary for RIPRAP.

#### **V. Study Area:** State of Colorado, Upper Colorado River Basin

##### **6. Study Methods/Approach:**

A yearly maintenance program has been established to make monies available to each river basin that was part of CRDSS. The FY-2002 CRDSS maintenance budget is \$424,400, of which \$207,771 has been allocated to updates and improvements for Recovery Program purposes.

#### **VII. Task Description and Schedule:**

Maintenance of CRDSS involves provision of expertise in the applications of CRDSS, including software and hardware upgrades and data updates.

#### **VIII. FY-2002 Work:**

- Deliverables/Due Date: See Detailed CRDSS Work Plan
- Budget \$ 207,771

#### **FY-2003 Work:**

The budget for the CRDSS maintenance program has yet to be determined by the

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed Work Plans are available for review in the CWCB offices by contacting the above phone number.

Colorado Legislature. Therefore, the amount and the type of work and schedule for FY-2003 will be determined following completion of FY-2002 Tasks described above.

**IX. Budget Summary:**

CWCB Cash Contribution

FY-2002: \$ 207,771

FY-2003: To be determined by the Colorado Legislature.

**X. Reviewer(s):** Not applicable.

**XI. References:** Not applicable.